

I. AMENDMENTS

Amendment of the specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13, of the application as follows:

-- The polymer used in the present invention is preferably a synthetic hydrophilic multivalent polymer containing a plurality of said reactive groups. In regard, the polymer is a biologically inert polymer. The polymer backbone is generally substituted by said reactive groups. These reactive groups may be connected to the polymer backbone either directly or via a spacer group such as an oligopeptide linkage. Such oligopeptide linkage preferably comprises from 1 to 4 peptide groups, especially 2 or 4. Examples of suitable linkages include -Gly-Gly-, -Glu-Lys-Glu-, and -Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly- (SEQ ID NO:1). --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 31, of the application as follows:

-- Such methacrylic polymeric precursors provide the hydrophilic polymer material. They will generally have a molecular weight of about 20,000Da and contain from 4-10 mol% of oligopeptide side chains bearing activated ester groups (-ONp). The oligopeptide acts as a spacer and may be varied in size, but the tetrapeptide Gly-Phe-Leu-Gly (SEQ ID NO:1) represents one preferred form which is designed for biodegradation by lysosomal cathepsin enzymes (thiol proteinases). A typical structure is shown below: --